

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 19 and 20 are presented for consideration, with Claim 1, 19 and 20 being independent.

Initially, Applicant notes with appreciation that Claims 3, 19 and 20 were indicated as containing patentable subject matter. Based on this indication, Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of Claim 3 and Claims 19 and 20 have been placed in independent form. The remaining claims, i.e., Claims 2, 5 and 6, depend from Claim 1. Accordingly, it is submitted that all the claims contain allowable subject matter and should be in condition for allowance.

To expedite prosecution, Claims 3, 7-18 and 21-25 have been cancelled.

In the Office Action, Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 22 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Takagi '587. Additionally, Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being obvious over Takagi in view of Kanda '322. Claims 17 and 18 are rejected as allegedly being obvious over Takagi in view of Kanda '393, and Claim 21 is rejected as allegedly being obvious over Takagi in view of Fujita '558. As noted above, the rejected claims have either been amended to include allowable subject matter or cancelled. These rejections are therefore deemed to be moot and should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of this application is deemed to be in order and such action is respectfully requested.

Appln. No.: 10/714,640

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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